

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43(b)(1))

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	02-08-2005
FOR FURTHER ACTION	
See paragraph 2 below	
Applicant's or agent's file reference	20045116
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)
PCT/FI2005/000172	10-04-2005
Priority date (day/month/year)	
02-04-2004	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC	
G06F17/30, G06F17/60	
Applicant	
Planmeeca Oy et al	

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Scope of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Revised statement under Rule 43(b)(1)(b) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability, citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 60, third(b) that written opinion of this International Searching Authority will be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/R12005/000172

Box No. 1 Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 the international application in the language in which it was filed
 a translation of the international application into which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Articles 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 on paper
 in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in electronic form
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
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International application No.
PCT/EP2005/000172

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis, I(a)(b) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	5, 7, 10-12, 14, 18-19, 22	YES
	Claims	1-4, 6, 8-9, 13, 15-17, 20-21, 23-28	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	5, 7, 10-12, 14, 18-19, 22	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-28	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: JP 2004078705 A
D2: US 5453099 A

The document D1 describes a dental care system and a dental care facility, which improve sales and service quality. A server is connected to the dental-care devices. When a device is in use, the name and the operating time of the device are transmitted to a store terminal and further to the server (see part [0026]-[0028] and [0083]-[0084]). Treatment time may be measured by a seat sensor electrically connected to the store terminal. The name of a material and the amount can be inputted in the database (see part [0088]). There are several terminals for input and for use as possible screens (see part [0102]).

D2 describes a method of and system for dental treatment. Dental instruments are connected with a computer, and if a dental instrument is not used according to the treatment plan, a warning signal is produced.

A data arrangement for a dental-care environment, a method for maintaining an electronic dental-care register, a dental-care-related device and a software product in a data arrangement for dental-care according to claims 1-4, 6, 8-9, 13, 15-17, 20-21, 23-28 are known from document D1. Thus, the invention defined in claims 1-4, 6, 8-9, 13, 15-17, 20-21, 23-28 is not new and consequently lacks novelty and inventive step.

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International application No.

PCT/FI2003/000172

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of Box V

The invention according to claims 5, 10-12 and 18 differs from D1 in keeping record of the dental-care material. The problem of registering data related to a dental treatment is solved. From D1, it is known to keep track of the quantity of materials which are predicted to be used (see part [0062]). For a person skilled in the art, who wants to keep record of the materials used, it is an obvious solution to also have the materials as an event and to store them material-specifically, as it is known to keep record of the dental-care related devices. To use different electronic readers is a known identifying technique and does not contribute to any technical effect beyond that expected. The invention according to claims 5, 10-12 and 18 thus lacks an inventive step.

The invention according to claim 7 differs from D1 in that the data system is configured for identifying an unfit instrument and indicating it unfit for use. The problem of having dirty instruments is solved. For a person skilled in the art, who is confronted with the problem of having dirty instruments, it is an obvious solution to also have a record of the cleaning-history of the instrument in the database, and give the dentist a warning when the instrument is being used without being sterilized. Thus, the invention according to claim 7 lacks an inventive step.

The invention according to claims 14, 19 and 22 differs from D1 in that the dental-care related device is controlled related to a treatment plan and it is detected if the device does not correspond to the treatment plan. From document D2 it is known to control a dental-care related device according to a treatment plan, and a warning signal is turned on if the device deviates from the plan. For a person skilled in the art, who wants to control the dental-operation according to a treatment plan, it is obvious to modify the system in D1 to be able to have a treatment plan according to claims 14, 19 and 22 and to control the dental-care related device, as D1 and D2 lack an inventive step. Thus, the invention according to claims 14, 19 and 22 lacks an inventive step.